IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A method of treating manure comprising:

a) mixing a quantity of manure with lime such that said mixture has a pH above 11.0 and ammonia is volatilized within said mixture;

b) drawing off ammonia volatilized from said mixture during mixing, thereby producing deodorized and sterilized manure;

~~b~~c) adding a ~~first coagulant~~ cationic, anionic or non-ionic flocculating or coagulating polymer to said deodorized and sterilized manure ~~mixture~~, thereby producing a slurry comprising a floc portion and a liquid portion ~~promoting floc formation within said mixture~~;

~~c~~d) separating the floc portion from the liquid portion of the slurry ~~mixture, thereby forming solids and a liquid portion~~;

~~d~~e) adding $MgCl_2$, $MgSO_4$, $MgCO_3$ or magnesium oxide ~~a second coagulant and a struvite-promoting compound~~ to said liquid portion, thereby promoting formation of struvite-containing flocs within the liquid portion ~~forming solids and clear liquid~~; and

~~e~~f) separating the struvite-containing flocs from the liquid portion ~~clear liquid from the solids~~.

2. (original) The method according to claim 1 wherein the manure is selected from the group consisting of hog manure, feedlot manure, dairy cow manure and chicken manure.

3. cancelled

4. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein the pH is above 11.5

5. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein the pH is between 11.5-12.5.

6. cancelled.

7. cancelled

8. cancelled

9. cancelled

10. cancelled

11. cancelled

12. cancelled

13. cancelled

14. cancelled

15. cancelled

16. cancelled

17. cancelled

18. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein the lime and manure is mixed vigorously for several hours.

19. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein evolved gases from step (ab) are removed under negative pressure.

20. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein in step (cd), the floc portion is separated from the ~~mixture~~ liquid portion of the slurry by mixing the ~~mixture~~ slurry until the floc portion becomes stable and a layer of clear liquid begins to form at the top of the slurry~~mixture~~.